

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 10-12, 15-17, 19-21 and 23-26 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of June 22, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 10-12, 16-17, 20-21 and 23-26 are allowed. Claims 1, 5-6, 18-19 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 5, 6, 18, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims are said to contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 18, an allowed claim, has been canceled, and the limitations of claim 18 have been entered into claim 1. Claims 7, 12, 19 and 21 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claim 22 has also been cancelled, as the feature defined by claim 22 is recited in claim 11.

Support for the recitation "at least one of" can be found in originally submitted claim 2, lines 2-3, original claim 9, lines 2-3 and original claim 14, lines 2-3. Since these claims were part of the specification as filed, no new matter has been entered.

Support for the recitation of "wherein said copper-based alloy wire comprises a high-rigidity body portion having a hardness of 350-380 Hv, a low rigidity tip end portion having a hardness of 235-250 Hv and an intermediate portion having a hardness of 240-290 Hv between said high-rigidity body portion and said low-rigidity tip end portion" is supported by the specification as filed at page 30, paragraph [00118], Table 2, Sample Nos. 1 and 3; page 34, paragraph [00129], Table 4; and Figures 2 and 5.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the language "end portion" inserted after "said low-rigidity tip." This amendment is supported by the specification as filed at page 34, paragraph [00129], lines 6-8, Table 4, and Figure 7.

Appln. No. 09/983,069
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Claim 21 has been amended to correct a self-evident typographical error.

Claim 22 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As claim 22 has been cancelled by the present amendment, this rejection is now moot.

The foregoing amendment has been submitted in order to place the claims into condition for allowance. No new issues have been raised, and, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered and the claims allowed as amended.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 

Anne M. Kornbau
Registration No. 25,884

AMK:srd
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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